

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 5473

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SN
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION DOCUMENT FOR FY 1979
SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 290763

1. REFTEL REQUEST FOR UNCLASSIFIED PRESENTATION OF OUR
FY 1979 "SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" FOR SINGAPORE PRESENTS
CERTAIN PROBLEMS. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, GOS DOES NOT SEE
ITSELF AS RECIPIENT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. BUT
SOLELY AS PURCHASER OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON STRICTLY
CASH BASIS. GOS CONSULTS REGULARLY WITH DAO IN DEVELOPING
ITS PLANS FOR FUTRUE PROCURMENT OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT
FROM U.S., BUT IT CONSIDERS THESE PLANS CLASSIFIED UNTIL FIRM
PROCUREMENT DECISIONS ARE MADE AND WOULD BE MOST UNHAPPY TO SEE
ANY PART OF THEM PUBLISHED UNILATERALLY BY USG.

2. IN ANY EVENT, THERE IS RELATIVELY LITTLE WE COULD SAY
WITH ANY DEGREE OF CERTAINTY REGARDING SINGAPORE'S FY 1979
PROCUREMNT PLANS. THESE PLANS HAVEBEEN CAST INTO SOME
DISARRAY BY OUR REFUSAL TO SELL THEM THE I-HAWK.
REPLACEMENT FOR AGING BLOODHOUND AIR DEFENSE MISSILE
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SYSTEM WILL BE PRIORITY REQUIREMENT OVER NEXT YEAR
OR SO, BUT AT THIS TIME NEITHER WE NOR GOS ITSELF
IS SURE WHERE REPLACEMENT WILL COME FROM. GOS MAY
ALSO BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING TWO USED C-130S IN
ADDITION TO THOSE NOW BEING BOUGHT FROM JORDAN, BUT
THIS WILL DEPEND ON AVAILABLILITY. GOS WILL BE RECEIVING
DELIVERY OF MOST OF ITS F-5E AND F-5F ORDER BEFORE END

OF FY 1979 AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT, GIVEN INEVITABLE AIRCRAFT LOSSES THAT CAN BE EXPECTED DURING TRANSITION PERIOD, SINGAPORE MIGHT REQUEST PURCHASE OF 2-3 REPLACEMENT (ATTRITION) AIRCRAFT IN FY 1979.

3. NONE OF ABOVE ITEMS IS IN ANY WAY CERTAIN, AND IN EACH CASE GOS WOULD CONSIDER ITS PROCUREMENT PLANS CLASSIFIED. GOS HAS ALSO INDICATED TO US ITS POSSIBLE INTEREST IN PURCHASE FROM U.S. OF WEAPON LOCATING RADARS AN/TPQ-36 AND AN/TPQ-37, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE WOULD BE SOMETHING LESS THAN \$7 MILLION. APART FROM UNCERTAIN POSSIBILITIES MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE, AT THIS TIME WE KNOW OF NO GOS PLANS FOR PROCUREMENT OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM USG THAT WOULD COST OVER \$7 MILLION. (WE ARE ASSUMING THAT M-ZWPE GRENADE LAUNCHER CO-PRODUCTION PROJECT WILL BE UNDER WAY BEFORE BEGINNING OF FY 1979).

4. GIVEN UNCERTAINTY OF GOS PROCUREMENT PLANS, OUR INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF THOSE PLANS, AND UNDERSTANDABLE GOS SENSITIVITY ABOUT THIRD COUNTRY PUBLICATION OF WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE CLASSIFIED SECURITY INFORMATION, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT CPD FOR SINGAPORE BE CONFINED TO STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION (PARAGRAPH 1A REFTEL) PLUS BRIEF NON-SPECIFIC PARAGRAPH CITING AREAS IN WHICH WE BELIEVE SINGAPORE MAY BE PLANNING PROCUREMENT IN FY 1979. PROPOSED STATEMENT ALONG
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THESE LINES FOLLOWS:

5. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) A. JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM:
OUR INTERESTS IN SINGAPORE ARE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC. WITH ITS THRIVING FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY, SINGAPORE IS AN IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER (1976 IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. \$1.2 MILLION) AND CENTER OF U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT (TOTAL ABOUT \$1 BILLION AS OF 1976). POLITICALLY SINGAPORE FOLLOWS A POLICY OF FORMAL NON-ALIGNMENT BUT SHARES WITH US A COMMITMENT TO ORDERLY DEMOCRATIC RULE, REGIONAL STABILITY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRONG, RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS AMONG THE NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. SINGAPORE IS A MEMBER AND FIRM SUPPORTER OF ASEAN (THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS). DOMESTICALLY, SINGAPORE'S PARLIAMENTARY REGIME IS PROBABLY THE MOST STABLE IN EAST ASIA AND ENJOYS BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT.

SINGAPORE OCCUPIES A HIGHLY STRATEGIC LOCATION AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE MAIN SEA PASSAGE BETWEEN THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS. THE USE OF SINGAPORE'S EXCELLENT PORT AND AIR TERMINAL FACILITIES ARE

IMPORTANT TO THE U.S. SECURITY POSITION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE IN PERMITTING US ACCESS TO THEM. SINGAPORE, IN TURN, HAS LOOKED TO THE U.S. AS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF EQUIPMENT FOR ITS SMALL BUT MODERN ARMED FORCES. THIS COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN OF MUTUAL BENEFIT TO BOTH COUNTRIES. AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN MAINTAINING IT IS CONTINUED U.S. RESPONSIVENESS TO SINGAPORE'S REASONABLE REQUESTS TO PURCHASE DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES IN THE U.S.

B. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM: SINGAPORE IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ITS CASH PURCHASES OF MODEST QUANTITIES OF U.S. DEFENSE EQUIPMENT DURING FY 1969. POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR
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PROCUREMENT INCLUDE SMALL ARMS AND OTHER CURRENT COMBAT EQUIPMENT, COMPONENTS OF AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, AND ADDITIONAL (USED) TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT. THE MISSION OF SINGAPORE'S ARMED FORCES IS THE DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY'S SMALL (230 SQUARE MILE) AND VULNERABLE TERRITORY FROM EXTERNAL ATTACK OR EXTERNALLY SUPPORTED SUBVERSION. THE SALE TO SINGAPORE OF U.S. DEFENSE EQUIPMENT TO ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF THE SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES TO CARRY OUT THIS MISSION IS FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS TRANSFER POLICY. (END UNCLASSIFIED BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.)

6. WE NOTE THAT SECTION ON SINGAPORE IN FY 1978 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION SHOWS SINGAPORE AS RECIPIENT OF \$61,000 IN PL 480 ASSISTANCE IN FY 1976 PLUS AN ESTIMATED \$53,000 IN FY 1977 AND \$52,000 IN FY 1978. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THESE SUMS REPRESENT USG PL 480 CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN/FAO WORLD FOOD PROJECT NO. 725, INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN IN SINGAPORE. EXAMINING STATISTICAL MATERIAL ON OTHER COUNTRIES IN FY 1978 PRESENTATION, HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS OF U.S. AID THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE INCLUDED IN STATED AID FIGURES. SINCE INCLUSION OF THIS FIGURE IN CASE OF SINGAPORE GIVES MISLEADING ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION THAT SINGAPORE RECEIVES AID FROM USG WHEN IN FACT IT DOES NOT, WE REQUEST THAT IT BE ELIMINATED FROM FY 1979 PRESENTATION.
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